

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
PRESS CONFERENCE WITH GEN. GEORGE JOULWAN, BRIG. GEN. JACK NIX, AND
BRIG. GEN. MIKE HAYDEN
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
JULY 23, 1994

SECRETARY PERRY: All week while we've been traveling, the Defense Department has been busy bringing a major addition to the humanitarian relief operation which we've been providing in Rwanda. I should say that up until today we sent in already over 100 sorties. But early this week the President decided to greatly intensify that operation and I've been keeping up with it through the week through discussions with Dr. Deutch, General Shali and General Joulwan. I had a unique opportunity on the way back to meet directly with General Joulwan and his staff and get a first hand assessment of where we are and I'd just like to share some of that with you today.

The first point I want to make about this is that while this is a humanitarian operation, that the equipment, facilities, and training that the Defense Department provides for military operations is immediately applicable to it. We're seeing that in this humanitarian operation in Rwanda. We saw other applications of other ways of using defense capabilities in peacekeeping operations in Aviano, from where we just came.

The second point I want to make about this is, that this operation uses facilities and capabilities which are truly unique in the world. The United States Defense [Dept.] is the only place you can turn to find the capability to mount a relief operation of this magnitude and with the distances involved here.

The third, somewhat related point, is that there are a number of international actions that are being directed to try to relieve the suffering and end the crisis in Rwanda. The United States is focusing its attention on the things that it does best with the capabilities that it has which are truly unique. And that's why we're putting most of our focus here on the massive airlift operations to get humanitarian supplies down there and the organization -- the command and control that's necessary to direct an operation of this complexity, this magnitude.

This will be costly. It's going to involve probably a few thousand Defense people. It's going to involve hundreds of sorties. Dr. Deutch has estimated that the cost to the Defense Department alone, not counting the relief supplies and so on, are going to be heavily in excess of \$100 million and this will come immediately out of the operation and maintenance budgets of the affected services and it will require a supplemental to replace those funds. I'll be requesting a supplemental in the near future.

The end game, what we're heading for in this operation, is providing relief for the people while they are in this transitory position, but we want to see them go back to Rwanda, to go back and get their fields harvested and planted so that there's not a longer term disaster behind the short term disaster we're looking at right now.

With those brief introductory comments, I want to introduce General Joulwan and George, will you also introduce BG Hayden and BG Nix.

GENERAL JOULWAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. I'd like to just give a short overview from the unified command which is European Command and when we got the order, what we have done, and then perhaps turn to the J-2, BG Mike Hayden, for some comments on the current situation, the intelligence situation, in theater.

We received a warning order on the 19th from the Joint Staff that said be prepared to provide assistance to Rwanda. We immediately, within hours, dispatched an assessment team that included communications and about 6-8 people. We flew them into the region to give us a first-hand assessment, particularly at Goma. That was followed the next day by a much heavier team that includes about 25-26 personnel that are in the area now. They will do a much deeper assessment and included in that team will be specialists in logistics, in water purification and sanitation and protection of the force. Those are on the ground now.

I would just like to refer to the map in the area that we're talking about which is in Africa in that area shaded in red and (this is blown up a little bit more) on a map that shows (point to Rwanda) which is right here and for references when we talk about cities, Goma, (point to Goma) which is in Zaire, which is right here on the western side of Rwanda; Bukavu, which is on the southern part; Kilgali, which is in the center -- the capital; Entebbe, which is in Uganda, which is going to be right now our southern Africa node. That's what the region looks like.

The French (show the dotted line there) have an enclave which they're protecting which is in the southwest corner of Rwanda and the French are in there now in a peacekeeping role. They also have some humanitarian assistance and there are several humanitarian organizations, particularly inside the UN, that are trying to care for the up to 1.2 million refugees that are pouring into Zaire from both the Goma area and the southwest corner. So that's the situation that we find right now.

We have forces on the ground. This initial team is in Goma today and we have another force headed for Entebbe that will open up the airfield in terms of -- for large shipments of C-5's, etc. That team is coming from the United States. General Nix is the SETAF Commander, the Southern European Task Force Commander, in Italy, in Vicenza. He has been designated the Joint Task Force Commander for this operation. He is standing up a Joint Task Force in Stuttgart and that will deploy into the region in the next few days. We have a forward that is operation now with good communications out of Goma.

That is sort of an overview. Our mission is to organize and help support the UN and other humanitarian organizations and third countries.

SECRETARY PERRY: Right now France is the lead nation in there. Other nations have indicated they want to help, particularly Germany and the Netherlands and I believe Sweden is also helping. So this will be an international effort.

GENERAL JOULWAN: We have designated a European node at Frankfurt. Frankfurt will be the node [where] we will collect everything and then send it into the region. That's sort of an overview. The command line will run from the President to the Secretary of Defense to the EUCOM to General Nix.

Q. Is there a name for the operations?

GENERAL JOULWAN: We haven't decided on it. We haven't had time in the last three or four days; we've been working other things, but no name yet that I know.

SECRETARY PERRY: Just one further comment on the international nature of the operation. I got a call yesterday when I was in Croatia from the Dutch Minister of Defense. They're putting together an effort to assist in this humanitarian -- and want to coordinate it through our effort. So we got him in touch with General Joulwan. There will be a number of nations participating in this under US leadership.

Q. Will you be working under the French?

GENERAL JOULWAN: No. No. We're working with the French. What we're trying to do -- they're on the ground now and we're going to be working with the French and the other humanitarian organizations to provide whatever assistance that we can provide.

Q. What's the number of people involved that you can see over the length of time?

GENERAL JOULWAN: We would think that right now we've got several hundred involved. We think it may go as high as 2,000, but until we get some good assessments back -- as the Secretary said, our aim is to try to get the people to move back into Rwanda and to do that we have to make a good assessment of what that entails -- how do we try to assist in doing that. We're not there yet.

Q. When you talk about these other countries, (inaudible) they're not talking about operating within Rwanda, they're talking about providing supplies? They're not talking about going into Rwanda with them.

GENERAL JOULWAN: Right now, providing supplies and assets. We're not sure whether that's going to entail some of their humanitarian forces or not, but right now providing assets and help.

SECRETARY PERRY: Let me stress a point here. Everything we're talking about here is humanitarian relief operations. It's not peacekeeping operations. That's what the French are doing. That's separate; related to, but --

Q. What's kinds of things are being sent in? Food? What kinds of things are we talking about? Blankets?

GENERAL JOULWAN: The primary effort right now, they told us in the President's message and the Secretary and the Chairman's message to me is -- water. Water and sanitation are the two biggest things and if we have some time, we just gave the Secretary a little rundown on ROWPU units and how much we're going to be sending in there.

SECRETARY PERRY: Water purification units.

GENERAL JOULWAN: This will be able to, we think, initially we hope to establish within the next few days, depending on where -- how soon we get into Goma, which is a crowded little airfield right now. 100,000 gallons -- we hope to establish in the next few days. We have enroute, the capacity to pump 1.2 million gallons per day.

Q. Where are these coming from? Europe?

GENERAL JOULWAN: Primarily from Europe but we've searched worldwide and we have a worldwide search and that includes trucks and pipes and blivets that will support all of this. So you have a distribution problem as well as getting the water. We've only been into this for a few days so we're still trying to get that information from the people on the ground.

Q. Would you use reservists for this? A lot of these water purification folks are in the reserves.

GENERAL JOULWAN: We'll have to get back to you on that. I don't know.

Q. General, what are the biggest logistical problems right now that you and General Nix are facing on the ground?

GENERAL JOULWAN: That's what we're trying to determine. Let me give you one, for example, we understand -- now I haven't been able to confirm all of this yet but -- the volcano is erupting down there in Goma and the lava flow can come very close to the airfield. So we're watching that very closely. We've got some alternate plans if we can't do it, but I think what we need to be able to do, the biggest challenge we're going to have, is to get clean water to the people.

Q. How much of this stuff is going to get right into Goma and how much has to be shipped in from like Entebbe?

GENERAL JOULWAN: The initial theme is to get this first group of water purification units right into Goma. That's what we've given them as...

Q. 1.2 million?

GENERAL JOULWAN: Right now it will be 180,000, initially. This is coming primarily from Europe so we have tight control of that. The others are coming -- we've gone worldwide. In fact we're getting some help from the Germans as well on water and water purification. That's all being collected in Frankfurt.

Q. Are you looking at US military stocks say in Guam or something so you can fly those in?

GENERAL JOULWAN: Diego Garcia.

Q. When do you figure you'll get the first water purification unit down there?

GENERAL JOULWAN: I'm cautioning by saying the next few days. It's supposed to be airborne this evening and --

Q. From?

GENERAL JOULWAN: From Europe, from Germany, Rhein Main.

Q. Could we get from General Nix, perhaps...(inaudible)

BG NIX: The assessment team now is trying to put together the needs, as General Joulwan said. It's really important that this flow of people and equipment that we put on the ground be fully integrated and that we have a concept of the requirements which we're developing, as I talk here, back with the staff, a good mission analysis that tells us what we've got to do on the ground. The tendency is to rush headlong down there, and we can do that. But if we do that, I may have soldiers standing around not really able to help. So we're making this a deliberate planning cycle. As you heard from General Joulwan, his staff is already making a difference. And if that difference will increase daily, my job is to stand up a joint staff from all the services, get an integrated plan together, and then deploy that staff down there to command and control the area.

Q. How do you see this compared to other humanitarian operations the United States has been involved in in the past?

BG NIX: Much greater.

GENERAL JOULWAN: This is much greater. General Nix has been on the job about a month down at SETAF and the challenge that he's going to have is that -- this dwarfs Provide Comfort in terms of challenge in both distances and what Mike Hayden will tell you is that we're talking about a distance from --

BRIG. GEN. MIKE HAYDEN: Frankfurt to Entebbe -- about the same distance as from Dallas to Honolulu, just under 4,000 miles. That's a long reach.

Q. You're talking, I think, at the White House about a 24-hour operation. You're talking about night landings on rather crude airfields.

GENERAL JOULWAN: That's why we've chosen Entebbe as a node. We may adjust from there, but we're talking lighting and other things that would have to be brought in. But right now, we've focused everything on Entebbe. If Goma opens up, we go in there as quickly as we can. But I wanted the flow to start and the flow has started. We're standing up the JTF. As they're getting the JTF assembled, concurrently, the flow is beginning into Entebbe and we have forward deployed command and control. The intent, if we can do it, is to get them into Goma if it's open. If not, then they go into Entebbe.

Q. You said you can go into Entebbe, then the stuff will have to be taken overland to Goma. How far is that and how long does that take?

BG NIX: 650 kilometers.

GENERAL JOULWAN: We'll find airfields in the vicinity, I think, to get in. There's also an airfield down here in the southern part at Bukuva, I believe is what it's called. The idea is to schedule -- if we have to do runway repair, we will also do that in Goma. We're prepared to do that. Part of this assessment is to tell us all of that.

Q. Can you give me an idea of what physically is involved in the assessment? Do you have people walking runways or what are they doing?

GENERAL JOULWAN: They are really trying to make assessments of the needs in terms of water. There are experts in this team. I said 20 some people; each one is an expert. In fact, I have a water expert here with me that is giving us some advice at my level to make sure that we say this thing right. As they look at it on the ground, he just told you, the water is the right water because that's part of the assessment that has to be made. The runway. How much will it take? Does it need to be extended? Do we need to put matting down? Do you need lights? What is the force protection requirement? What is the intelligence on the ground? All of that is part of this assessment that needs to be made.

Q. Is this a hostile environment?

BRIG. GEN. HAYDEN: It's a potentially dangerous environment. I wouldn't call it hostile. Obviously, it's not an orderly situation. There are armed groups in terms of the former Rwandan armed forces that have gone across the border. Not all of them have been disarmed. There is, in such a chaotic situation, a natural tendency to disorder and for some people who might be stronger than others, to take advantage of the situation. I think what we're looking at right now, the danger to Americans there could be seen in terms of the inherent disorder and what I would characterize as activity associated with banditry rather than a military force who would be opposed to what the United States or the other humanitarian organizations are doing.

Q. Some of the television pictures have been nearly unbelievable. It's as though the aircraft that they're taking them from just continues and continues and continues -- an absolute carpet of humanity. How does one come in and focus on the needs?

BRIG. GEN. HAYDEN: Let me begin to try to answer that with a sense of scale. I'll be very candid with you. Anyone who talks about the number of people involved here beyond two or three significant digits is probably making it up. We think we've got a good sense at least of what the scale is. Let me try to draw that for you.

We think there are about 1 million to 1.2 million refugees in the Goma area. Between 400,000 and 700,000 in Bukavu. 1.8 million moving in the French security zone -- moving toward Bukavu. About 700,000 elsewhere in Rwanda and then about 650,000 that have left earlier into Burundi and into Tanzania and to a lesser extent, into Uganda. If you take that and you take the number of deaths, and again, a very inexact science, there could have been as many as 500,000 people killed. When you add all those numbers together, you come up with a figure about 70% of the pre-war population of Rwanda.

Q. Which was?

BRIG. GEN. HAYDEN: 7.5[million], 7.8 [million]. Let me try to scope it a different way. Goma was a small village population slightly in excess of 100,000. If you want to tie it to something -- about the size of the population of Providence, RI, per se -- right within the city limits. What you've had in the span of seven days, is the population of Dallas, TX, walk in to Goma.

Q. Has there been any reaction that we've seen on the ground there among the people to yesterday's announcement at the White House? Has that caused any change in behavior?

SECRETARY PERRY: I don't know.

Q. Is the military going to provide doctors and hospitals?

SECRETARY PERRY: Food and medicine have been going in right along. I think the evidence we have is that the food supplies coming in are adequate. The water problem is the more difficult.

GENERAL JOULWAN: Water is the key because that's like the sanitation and a lot of the water in this area is being contaminated because of poor sanitation as well. We are alerting doctors and preventive medicine units will also help.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT BOB HALL: Dehydration units are also going in.

Q. These other countries you mentioned. Are they also going to be flying or just providing food? Is the United States going to be doing the flying mainly?

✓ GENERAL JOULWAN: There are other nations involved flying things in, but the United States with the nations — what we've told them to do is to provide — we have a collection point here, which is Frankfurt. That's where we've asked them to bring whatever it is they want to (inaudible).

Q. Are you really describing for us what is a logistical skeleton that you are going to be for this operation?

GENERAL JOULWAN: Yes. Our goal is to save lives. How quickly we can move to save those lives is what we're trying to do and to do it in as disciplined way as we can.

Q. Deputy Secretary Deutch yesterday, I gather, said, this is going to take some time to be effective. Do you have any sense of what that means?

SECRETARY PERRY: Some aspects of it will be effective within a day. If we get the water purification in there — could be in there as early as tomorrow. We can't predict that with confidence because of the uncertainties of the fields. It will be building up gradually over the next week.

GENERAL JOULWAN: The intent here in our planning — the intent (inaudible) you see what we do concurrently is we build up the staff here — can we do concurrently — and I mentioned some of them. We hope tomorrow, if all goes well, tomorrow or the next day to have airdrops in places pinpointed by the UNHCR where we can airdrop essential food, in particular, to pockets of refugees. These are rations of food by United Nations.

Q. That would be a system coming out of Entebbe, back and forth?

GENERAL JOULWAN: We hope to do it right in the region. We think out of Goma.

Q. Do you have any sense of how long, Mr. Secretary, that General Joulwan and General Nix will...

SECRETARY PERRY: This is months, not weeks — is the best I can say right now.

Q. You say dropping in the area of Goma?

GENERAL JOULWAN: We're going to coordinate that with UNHCR. They're going to give us the locations of where these drops should take place. They're going to be, hopefully, in the outlying regions.

Q. You're not talking about dropping in Rwanda, are you?

GENERAL JOULWAN: I'm not sure of the locations. It will be where the need will be.

Thank you.

END

WASHINGTON POST

July 24, 1994

Pg. 26

U.S. Troops Face a Months-Long, Logistically Tough Mission, Perry Says

By John F. Harris
Washington Post Staff Writer

BRUSSELS, July 23—U.S. troops probably will remain for at least several months in Africa, where remote locations and primitive conditions will make assisting Rwandan refugees the most logistically complex humanitarian relief operation in U.S. military history, Defense Secretary William J. Perry said today.

Perry was briefed here this morning by the senior military commanders of the relief effort, who told him the crisis could swell far beyond its current horror if it is not contained during the next month.

"We want to see them go back to Rwanda, to go back and get their fields harvested and planted so that there's not a longer-term disaster behind the short-term disaster we're looking at now," said Perry, who diverted his return trip from a week-long tour of the Balkans to meet with the military leaders.

Army Gen. George Joulwan, head of the U.S. European Command, advised Perry that three C-130s, flying out of the airlift headquarters in Entebbe, Uganda, will begin as early as Sunday making food drops in the refugee areas. Flying five sorties a day, the planes will be able to drop a total of 100 tons of food a day. The planes will be joined within several days by larger C-5s, which will be carrying large transportation equipment, but not involved in airdrops.

In addition, Joulwan told reporters travel-

ing with Perry that he hopes the first U.S. water-purification unit will arrive in Goma, Zaire, by Sunday. That unit is able to pump 100,000 gallons a day. A total of 18 purification units from U.S. military installations around the world, including Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, have been summoned to Zaire and soon will provide a capacity of 1.2 million gallons a day, Joulwan said.

Adding to the burden, Joulwan said, is the prospect of lava from an erupting volcano near Goma. "The lava flow can come very close to the airfield," Joulwan said, "so we're watching that closely."

Perry said the U.S. forces face an extraordinary challenge because of the number of refugees and the 4,000-mile stretch between the large encampments in Zaire and Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany, where the airlift operation will originate.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Mike Hayden, the senior intelligence officer for the operation, noted that is the same distance as between Dallas and Honolulu.

Perry said he did not know how long it would take U.S. forces to complete their mission, which he estimated would cost \$100 million. "This is months, not weeks, is the best I can say now," said Perry, adding that he plans to seek a supplemental appropriation for the relief effort.

With tens of thousands of refugees dying or near death, human rights groups have stressed the urgent need for action by the United States and allies, and some have been critical at what they see as a lackadaisical re-

sponse.

But Army Gen. Jack Nix, who is leaving in a few days to be the senior commander on the ground in Africa, said he is determined not to plunge in slapdash.

"The tendency is to rush headlong down there," said Nix, who joined the briefing on Perry's plane. "But if we do that, I may have soldiers standing around not really able to help."

Nix, a Ranger with a specialty in airborne operations, has one of the more noteworthy records in the Army. For the past decade, he has been in the units that were the first to arrive for every major U.S. military operation, including the invasions of Grenada, Panama and the Desert Shield operation that preceded the Persian Gulf War.

Joulwan said the operation "dwarfs" the relief effort established to help Iraq's persecuted Kurdish minority after the Gulf War. The relief effort in Somalia involved many times more military personnel than the number anticipated for Zaire. But in Somalia, U.S. forces were there to protect distribution lines, not to actually distribute food and purify drinking water.

A team of 26 people is on the ground now, Joulwan said, performing an assessment of military and public health requirements. They are looking at such issues as how to turn the crude, relatively short airfield at Goma into a working 24-hour landing facility.

Commanders are eager to take control of the Goma strip because its operations are hindered by people and animals on the airfield. Once a city of 100,000, Goma is now a refugee encampment of 1.2 million people.

Joulwan said the military is working with the United Nations to determine the location for food drops. They want to aim for less-crowded areas, to avoid hitting people—as happened occasionally in the Kurdish operation—and to avoid starting riots over food.

Hayden, the intelligence officer, said commanders do not consider Zaire to be a militarily hostile zone, but added it is nonetheless a dangerous place—mostly because of the chaotic situation and the potential for banditry.

Although the French and others are involved in helping Zaire, Perry said the U.S. military will be contributing airlift and other capabilities that other nations simply don't have. "The United States [military] is the only place you can turn to find the capability to mount a relief operation of this magnitude with the distances involved here," he said.